



When it rains, stormwater flows over driveways, lawns, streets, and sidewalks, and into storm drains that discharge directly to our streams, lakes, rivers and the ocean.

As the stormwater flows along the ground, it picks up oil, trash, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants and discharges these pollutants directly into our waterbodies, the same waterbodies that we use for swimming, fishing and providing drinking water.

By practicing healthy habits, citizens can help keep common pollutants like trash, yard waste, pet waste, pesticides, chemicals and automotive fluids off the ground and out of our stormwater.



From the USEPA, here are ten things you can do to prevent stormwater pollution:

1. Use fertilizers sparingly and sweep up driveways, sidewalks, and roads.
2. Never dump anything down the storm drains.
3. Vegetate bare spots in your yard.
4. Compost your yard waste.
5. Avoid pesticides; learn about Integrated Pest Management.
6. Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces.
7. Take your car to the car wash instead of washing it in the driveway.
8. Check car for leaks, and recycle motor oil.
9. Pick up after your pet.
10. Have your septic tank pumped and system inspected regularly.



City of Charleston

Department of Public Service
75 Calhoun Street, 3rd Floor
Charleston, SC 29401

Phone: 843-724-3757

Fax: 843-973-7261

Website: www.charlestoncity.info/stormwater

City of Charleston



Stormwater

Education

Program

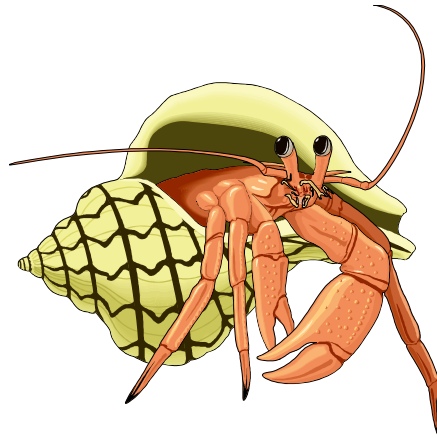




Stormwater Classroom Education

The City of Charleston's new stormwater permit requires the City to educate the public about the impacts of stormwater discharges on waterbodies and the steps the public can take to reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff. As part of the public education program, the City is developing an environmental education class on stormwater for elementary school children in the City of Charleston.

Stormwater is an important urban environmental issue. This class will help children in Charleston better understand their connections to their urban and natural environments and will help them to take action to improve these environments. The class will orient students to their urban and natural surroundings in the Charleston area, and students will learn how stormwater fits into the water cycle.



Using an EnviroScape model of an urban coastal area, students will observe how storms wash pollutants from their own neighborhoods into local waterbodies. Negative impacts of stormwater pollution will be addressed. Students will then discuss ways they and their families can prevent stormwater pollution.

This class is still in its developmental stages. It is being designed based on science and (if applicable) social studies standards and can be adapted for grades K-8. It will be approximately 30 minutes in length. It can be a stand-alone class, or a segment of the Lowcountry Environmental Education Programs' "Experience the Water Cycle" class (www.scleep.org).



After this class, students will be able to:

- identify major waterbodies in the Charleston area
- know where water goes after it rains in the City
- distinguish between storm drains and house drains
- identify up to 8 stormwater pollutants
- know how to prevent these pollutants
- know how water pollution affects environment, organisms, and people

For more information on the City's stormwater education program, please contact us at the phone number listed below.

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